

(Mr. ALTMIRE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

VOTING RIGHTS FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, this week a historic vote to give the 600,000 residents of the District of Columbia here in the Nation's capital voting representation in the House was due on the floor and had to be pulled down but only for now. I come to thank the majority of Members of Congress, of this House, who have voted for the right of the people of the District to have a vote on this floor, especially the 22 Republicans and the 219 Democrats, who gave the D.C. House Voting Rights Act a straight-up vote in 2007 when it passed 241-177.

I thank Speaker PELOSI and Majority Leader HOYER for their invaluable and unfailing support until the very end. I thank Majority Leader HARRY REID for bringing a historic first-time vote for the bill where it passed the Senate. I thank Chairman JOHN CONYERS for his unyielding support of D.C. voting rights. I thank former Representative TOM DAVIS whose idea it was to pair Democratic D.C. with Republican Utah, the most perfect example of a bipartisan bill ever to hit this floor where each side benefits equally. I thank Ilir Zherka of D.C. Vote and the coalition he put together and Wade Henderson of the Leadership Conference on Human and Civil Rights, who were steadfast and creative throughout this process.

The Senate for the first time, in fact, enacted the bill, but it had a gun amendment that took down the District's gun safety laws, yet the District's gun safety laws have been held to be constitutional now by the courts. When the bill came here to the House, I sought a clean vote and almost got it. I thank the House for being willing to put the D.C. House voting rights bill on a must-pass bill. The Senate did not agree, so I spent months trying to negotiate a compromise that would have left at least some of D.C.'s gun laws intact.

Finally, and reluctantly, I agreed to the same amendment that passed the Senate to, in fact, alter the District's gun laws, but I had a set of strategies for returning the District's public safety laws.

However, we were hit with a new over the top revised gun amendment that gun forces sprung on us that was worse than anything we could have imagined. Ultimately, people would have been allowed to carry guns in the Nation's capital. The city could not prohibit guns in its own publicly owned buildings. Owners of residential and commercial property could not ban guns in their own property to those who rent or lease.

We expect the gun forces to return. We are ready for them. For the sake of post-9/11 Washington and hometown D.C., they must not succeed in overturning the public safety gun laws of the Nation's capital. I promise you this, we will redouble our efforts to finally give the American citizens who pay taxes at a rate of second per capita in the United States, the citizens who live in our own capital, the vote in Congress they have sought for two centuries and that every American who believes in the founding principles of the Framers and our country know must have. Let's do it, and let's do it this year.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

CONGRATULATING JOETEN ENTERPRISES ON ITS 60TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SABLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the shareholders, management, and employees of a very special family-owned business in the Northern Mariana Islands as they celebrate their company's 60th anniversary. Joeten Enterprises, Inc., or simply Joeten as it is known to local residents, began with Jose Camacho Tenorio and his wife Soledad Duenas Takai selling beer and soft drinks to soldiers and sailors from Saipan right after World War II. Joeten and Daidai, as everyone called the Tenorios, gradually grew their quintessential mom and pop operation into a diversified, multi-million-dollar corporation. Today Joeten Enterprises encompasses not only retail shopping outlets but also wholesale, shipping and stevedoring, car dealership and auto service, hotel, real estate, construction and material supply, hardware, insurance, bakery and deli businesses. They have hundreds of employees, including many that have been a part of the company for decades.

It is difficult to imagine our principal island of Saipan 60 years ago. The war had destroyed virtually all of the physical and commercial infrastructure. Residents found some work with the U.S. military or lived on government handouts. So for newlyweds Joeten and Daidai to take the great entrepreneurial leap of faith and open a corner grocery store in the village of Chalan Kanoa was a significant step not only in their own lives but in the reconstruction of the island economy.

Joeten and Daidai sacrificed much and worked long hours to build their

small business. Joeten was lucky enough to have a government job, but he was constantly networking, planning, and then carefully executing a variety of adaptations and expansions to grow the business. Daidai supervised the store during the day, balancing the books, while caring for and feeding the couple's growing family. The four daughters and two sons of Joeten and Daidai—Annie, Clarence, Norman, Patricia, Frances, and Priscilla—began their own education in business at an early age right there in the store. Their parents' example and tough but caring attitude taught the children to work hard to get what they wanted from life. They learned that personal discipline was key to success. And as each of the children grew, they took on their own increasingly important roles in the burgeoning Joeten Enterprises.

Joeten passed on in 1993, Daidai in 2008. But their six children continue to run the many businesses their parents began. The children of Joeten and Daidai share their parents' values with their own children, so the lessons Joeten and Daidai imparted continue to be practiced by a third generation of entrepreneurs.

As retold by the Tenorio children and grandchildren, one of the most important of these lessons was that to a large degree the company's success is the result of the teamwork of the company's loyal and dedicated managers and employees.

In that spirit, we salute them all—owners, managers, employees. Hand in hand, may they continue to prosper in the next decade, guided by the vision and spirit of the company's founding couple, Joeten and Daidai.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. POSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POSEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)